

THE PERFINS OF THOMAS COOK & SON

—by Jan Prins

Thomas Cook, who lived from 1808 to 1892, started to develop tourism in the early 1860's, becoming an agent for the sale of English and foreign railroad tickets. In 1865 he organized trips throughout Europe and in 1866 he also started in the U.S.A. In the same year he introduced hotel coupons providing accommodation at a fixed charge. He was then doing the business with his son and thenceforth the company's name was Thomas Cook & Son. One may say that Thomas Cook & Son was the first tourist company in the world. Gradually Thomas Cook & Son expanded its organization throughout the world, opening branches in Paris (France), Cairo (Egypt) and many countries in the Far East. Below are various types of Perfins used in the above-mentioned countries:

